

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
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LONDON FOR WISNER

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AFRICA IN THE U.S. PRESS, DECEMBER 15, 1976

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1. WASHINGTON POST:

--BRITAIN YESTERDAY ADJOURNED THE GENEVA CONFERENCE UNTIL
JANUARY 17, BUT SAID THAT ATTEMPTS WOULD BE MADE IN THE
INTERIM TO BRING THE BLACK NATIONALISTS AND THE WHITE-
MINORITY GOVERNMENT CLOSER TOGETHER. THE OFFICIAL STATE-
MENT SAID RICHARD WOULD BEGIN A SHUTTLE MISSION THROUGHOUT
SOUTHERN AFRICA ON DEC. 28 TO ENLIST BACKING FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

--MORE THAN 30 PERSONS WERE KILLED LAST WEDNESDAY DURING
AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION IN GONDAR.

--ACCORDING TO NEWS DISPATCHES, PERCY QOBOZA, SOUTH
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AFRICA'S LEADING BLACK JOURNALIST WAS HELD AND QUESTIONED

BY POLICE FOR 8 HOURS YESTERDAY.

--AP QUOTES BILLY GRAHAM AS DESCRIBING KENYA AS "PARADISE ON EARTH."

--REUTERS REPORTS ON A TYPHOID EPIDEMIC WHICH HAS BROKEN OUT IN CENTRAL ANGOLA.

2. NEW YORK TIMES:

--IN A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE UPCOMING RICHARD SHUTTLE, HENRY KAMM WRITES THAT BRITAIN IS COUNTING HEAVILY ON A CONCURRENT BEHIND-THE-SCENES AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE. IN VIEW OF THE DEPTH OF BRITISH-RHODESIAN ANTAGONISM, THE U.S. IS EXPECTED TO BEAR THE PRINCIPAL BURDEN IN TRYING TO PERSUADE SMITH. THE U.S. IS ALSO EXPECTED TO EXERT ITS EFFORTS ON VORSTER. REINHARDT IS VISITING LONDON TO COORDINATE WITH BRITAIN THE CHARACTER OF THE BRITISH ROLE IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

--JOHN BURNS REPORTS ON THE DETENTION OF PERCY QOBOZA BY SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY POLICE.

--IN AN EDITORIAL, THE TIMES WONDERS WHY CROSLAND AND KISSINGER CONTINUE TO EXPRESS OPTIMISM ON THE GENEVA TALKS. ENDING ON A MORE HOPEFUL NOTE, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT KISSINGER SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET WHATEVER ADVANCE SANCTION HE NEEDS FROM CARTER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERS IN CONGRESS TO KEEP "THAT CRITICAL EFFORT FROM A COLLAPSE THAT MIGHT MAKE INEVITABLE WIDESPREAD RACIAL WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."

--A CACHE OF DYNAMITE FOUND IN A MINE IN BOOYSENS LED TO THE ARREST OF WELLINGTON TSHAZIBANE AND ANOTHER BLACK.

3. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:

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--HUMPHREY TYLER REPORTS FROM CAPE TOWN ON THE DETENTION AND INTERROGATION OF PERCY QOBOZA, EDITOR OF THE BLACK-ORIENTED DAILY NEWSPAPER THE WORLD, AND RECENT NIEMAN FELLOW AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY. QOBOZA WAS TAKEN FROM HIS HOME IN SOWETO AT 3:00 A.M. TUESDAY, AND RELEASED 8 HOURS LATER AFTER A "LENGTHY INTERVIEW". QOBOZA HAS BEEN CAUGHT BETWEEN THE NEED TO EXPRESS INCREASING BLACK MILITANCY, AND SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY LAWS WHICH MAKE "INCITEMENT"

A CRIME. THE DAY BEFORE HIS ARREST THE WORLD RAN AN EDITORIAL CALLING THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA "A CRISIS" NOT "A MERE PROBLEM".

4. THE BALTIMORE SUN:

--AP REPORTS FROM GENEVA THAT THE RHODESIAN TALKS HAVE BEEN ADJOURNED UNTIL JANUARY 17. CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN IVOR

RICHARD PLANS TO UNDERTAKE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IN AFRICA AFTER CHRISTMAS. THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT IAN SMITH MAY ATTEMPT TO OPEN HIS OWN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BLACKS OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE HAS SAID THAT UNLESS THE CONFERENCE RETURNS TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS HE WILL NOT RETURN TO GENEVA; MEANWHILE JOSHUA NKOMO HAS THREATENED TO BOYCOTT THE TALKS UNLESS BRITAIN ACCEPTS ITS "ROLE" AS THE RULING COLONIAL POWER DURING AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

--AP REPORTS FROM JOHANNESBURG ON THE ARREST OF PERCY QOBOZA, SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING BLACK JOURNALIST. THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE IN LONDON DECLARED IT WAS "SHOCKED AND DISMAYED BY THE ARREST." AFTER HIS RELEASE QOBOZA COMMENTED "IT WAS ALL MUDDLED. THE POLICE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN SOWETO. I GOT THE IMPRESSION THEY THOUGHT I KNEW. THE POLICE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN ME A RING. I WOULD HAVE COME AROUND TO SEE THEM." KISSINGER

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